THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (f) Under item 8 of Scheduled II of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 read with paragraph 60(1) of the EPF Scheme, rate of interest on EPF is required to be determined by the Central Government in consultation with the Central Board or Trustees, EPF. Accordingly, the CBT in its meeting held on 25.4.2000 made a recommendation to the Central Government for crediting interest in the accounts of the EPF subscriber member @12% for 2000-01 starting from 1.4.2000. The recommendations of the Central Board were considered by Government and as average earning of the EPF from April 2000 onwards is around 11%, it was decided to credit interest in accounts of the EPF subscribers @11% interest on monthly balances for the year 2000-01. In determining the rate of interests on EPF the Central Government has also been guided by the provisions of paragraph 60(4) of the EPF Scheme under which the Central Government is required to ensure that there is no overdrawal on the interest suspense account as a result of giving interest to the EPF subscribers.

Financial Assistance from World Bank to Abolish Child Labour

582. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken or being taken by Government to abolish the Child Labour in the different parts of the country;

(b) whether Government have prepared any concrete scheme in this respect;

(c) whether Government have received any financial assistance from World Bank or ILO to abolish Child Labour in the country; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of outcome in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Government of India has been implementing two schemes, for

rehabilitation of Children withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. 93 NCLPs are currently under implementation in 11 child labour endemic states for rehabilitation of 1.9 lakh children. Government has approved the continuance of the scheme of NCLP for the duration of the Ninth Plan and expansion of number of projects upto 100.

Under the Scheme of Grant-in-aid, funds are released to Voluntary Organisations, on the recommendation of the concerned State Government, for taking up action oriented projects for the benefit of working children. Over 70 projects are currently under implementation under the Scheme of Grant-in-aid.

The above Schemes are continuing in the year 2000-2001 also.

Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual, progressive and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour.

(c) and (d) The International Labour Organisation (ILO), under its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) has implemented 156 child labour projects in India.

The Commitment of funds for these projects under different biennia is as follows:

(in US Dollors)

Biennia	Amount
1992-93	1,537,124
1994-95	2,142,375
1996-97	515, 556
1998-2000	2,770,629
2000-2001	516,037

A total of 90, 500 child labourers were rehabilitated under the ILO's IPEC programme and 44,300 additional child labours have been targeted in 2000-2001